



## Autumn 2021 GLPA STAFF READING RECOMMENDATIONS



### Birch Class Y6 - Mr Brakefield: A Christmas Carol (The Graphic Novel) by Charles Dickens and illustrated by David Roach.

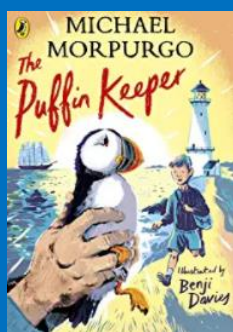


Charles Dickens' classic tale of Ebenezer Scrooge's journey from greed to benevolence, is as synonymous with the festive season as turkey, mince pies and tinsel. Upon a snowy Christmas Eve, the mean-spirited, self-centred Scrooge is visited by the ghost of his 7-years-dead business partner, Jacob Marley. At first disbelieving of his senses, Scrooge dismisses the phantom as a mere symptom of food poisoning but throughout the course of the night is visited by three more spirits who take Scrooge on a tour through Christmas of the past, present and future. Scrooge is faced with the joys of yuletide in his younger days and the misery to be inflicted on his demoralised assistant, Bob Cratchit and his ailing son, Tiny Tim, who is destined to leave a space at the dinner table on Christmas Day yet to come. Will these otherworldly visions transform Scrooge forever or will he be left unmoved by this unexpected encounter?

A Christmas Carol is a heart-warming story suitable for confident readers in Year 5 and 6 and the wonderful illustrations in this Graphic Novel version really brings the tale to life.

### Sycamore Class Y6 – Miss Sykes: Pax by Sara Pennypacker

Pax is the story of a little boy named Peter, the fox he rescued when he was a kit and their very special bond. When the pair are separated, it becomes their mission to reunite. But with a war raging through the country, the duo must overcome many obstacles that stand in their way. The book is dotted with wonderful illustrations that help tell the story and give an insight into what these war-worn forests might have looked like. This is a story of friendship, overcoming challenges and appreciating those who love you unconditionally. I would recommend it wholeheartedly!



### Mrs Carlisle: The Puffin Keeper by Michael Morpurgo

This is a brilliant book by Michael Morpurgo, published in 2020. I read it in one sitting and could not put it down. The illustrations are beautiful. I would suggest it is suitable for children in Year 3 and Year 4 to read.

It is written from the perspective of one of the characters, Allen Williams, who was rescued by the lighthouse keeper when he was five years old. The story tracks his lifetime, how one event changed and influenced Allen's life forever and his enduring friendship with Benjamin Postlethwaite, the

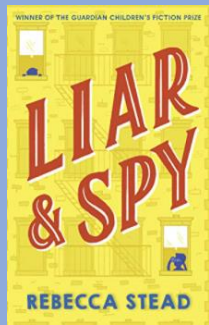
lighthouse keeper.

### Mrs Carlisle: Lubna and Pebble by Wendy Meddour

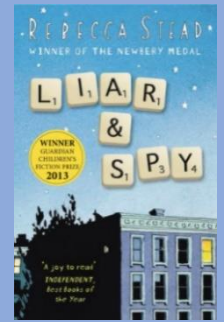
This is a short story about a child who finds a pebble as she arrives in a refugee camp and the pebble becomes her friend. As the story develops Lubna makes friends with another child in the camp and passes on Pebble to him when her family are resettled. The images are very evocative and tell the story as much as the words do.



Miss Egan - suitable for Y5/6: *Liar and Spy* by Rebecca Stead



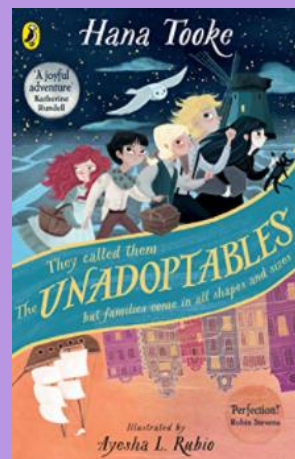
You will be drawn in by the main character and his home life within the first few pages and not want to stop reading until the liars and spies are revealed. Georges and his family have been forced to downsize due to his father's job, and life at school is the same - he's just not part of the 'cool' crowd. He doesn't see much of his mum, who is always working night shifts at the hospital, and so when Georges meets another boy his age in the new apartment block, who is the founder of a 'Spy Club', Georges just can't resist finding out more...



This is a great story, which reminds us that things are not always quite what they seem. The way that people portray themselves as confident or tough on the outside, may be far from the truth of what they feel on the inside.

Miss Egan – suitable for Y5/6: *The Unadoptables* by Hana Tooke

In the 1880s, five poor children have been raised at the in Amsterdam run by the nasty matron Elinora decreed that they are all simply 'unadoptable'. The abandoned as babies in certainly mysterious tin toolbox, one in a picnic hamper, one in a wheat sack, and one in a coffin-shaped basket. Milou, the natural gang, has developed all sorts of theories as to who her they left her at the orphanage, including the idea that hunters! Now 12 years-old, Milou leads her four friends, and Lotta away from the clutches of a sinister potential they set off on a hunt for her real parents. The journey city and on a risky adventure.



Little Tulip Orphanage Gassbeek, who has children were circumstances: one in a one in a coal bucket leader of this little parents are and why they were werewolf Sem, Egbert, Fenna adoptive father and takes them across the

This book has a host of great characters who remind us of the value of real friendship and what family really means.

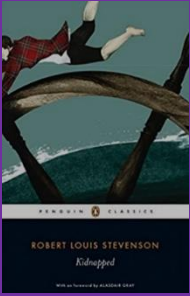
Maple Class Y5 Miss Henighan - *Gorilla Dawn* by Gill Lewis

Gorilla Dawn, the thrilling and heart wrenching story from award-winning storyteller Gill Lewis. A baby Gorilla is seized from the heart of the jungle by a herd of mutinous soldiers. When two imprisoned children, Imara and Bobo, learn the devastating fate of the gorilla who is being sold into captivity, they promise to return it back to its home in the wild as soon as they possibly can. Will they manage this dangerous quest without falter? Or will the immense consequences of getting caught bring them to a sudden halt?

Gill Lewis has created an emotional masterpiece that is sure to stay with you. Join Imara and Bobo on their quest to free the imprisoned gorilla.



### Larch Class Y5 - Mrs Mir: Kidnapped by RL Stevenson



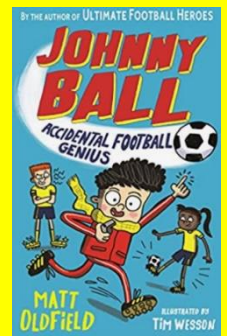
'Kidnapped', originally published in 1886, is written by the famous Scottish author Robert Louis Stevenson. There are some elements taken from his most well-known fictional story: 'Treasure Island'. This book is recommended for anyone who enjoys reading a good adventure and wants to learn about surviving on an island!

'Kidnapped' is written in first person and narrated by the central character, seventeen-year-old David Balfour. The backdrop of the story is set in and around the Scottish Highlands, as we follow David on his unexpected journey to seek his fortune. David's father has recently died, and he has been told that his uncle Ebenezer Balfour, who owns the 'House of Shaw', holds their family's inheritance. David decides to go and meet his uncle but the welcome he receives soon discloses the painful truth, that his uncle is not ready to part with his wealth in a hurry.

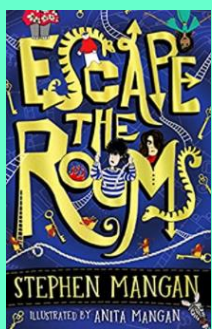
With his devious planning, Ebenezer tricks his nephew to board a cargo ship, and from there David's life takes a horrifying turn. He is kidnapped and faces dangers all around him; he must now learn how to survive for himself. What he witnesses, makes him lose hope of ever escaping from the horrors of the crew. Fortunately, he soon befriends Alan Breck Stewart, who is a loyal Scotsman and an excellent swordsman. Alan is on the run from his enemy. They both promise to help each other get off the ship; however, this is short lived. The ship strikes some rocks and goes down, luckily, they both manage to escape and find themselves on an island. After this incident, David and Alan face a lot of misunderstandings among themselves, but they learn how to overcome these by enduring the harsh conditions around them, to get back home. Will David face his uncle to challenge him for his fortune or will he have to live life in poverty?

### Chestnut Class Y4 – Mr Brough: Johnny Ball Accidental Football Genius by Matt Oldfield

Johnny Ball is football mad! He lives and breathes the beautiful game. He is a good player, but not quite good enough to make the Tisbury Primary School team. To play for Tisbury in the famous County Cup is his dream but unfortunately it doesn't look like happening. However, Mr Mann needs an assistant coach! Step forward Johnny. Can he guide the team to glory and overcome the infamous school bully?



I really enjoyed this book! Great for anyone who is football mad like me!



### Hazel Class Y4 – Mrs Waddington: Escape the Rooms by Stephen Mangan

Bungee jumping Jack did not expect to fall straight through the floor at the fairground and end up having to escape a series of weird and wonderful rooms. In each room he faces puzzles and traps that need to be solved, where he meets a mysterious girl called Cally. Add a murderous polar bear, hundreds of tiny yet ferocious lions and some mind-blowing riddles. Really enjoyed reading this book!

### Mrs Waddington – Hazel Class:

Mr Wolf, Mr Piranha, Mr Snake no longer want to be the bad guys — and SMELL like bad guys! Mr Wolf 10,000 chickens? Will the team be lots of amazing, fun pictures.



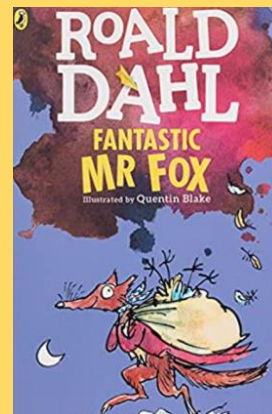
### The Bad Guys by Aaron Blabey

and Mr Shark are about to change the world. They no they now want to be good guys even though they look has a daring plan to rescue 200 dogs and then..... successful? This book made me laugh out loud and has

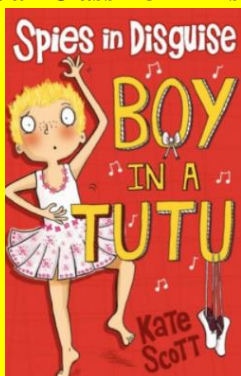


**Rowan Class Y3 – Mr Bright: Fantastic Mr Fox by Roald Dahl**

I'm not ashamed to recommend this Roald Dahl classic – it's my personal favourite out of all his works and a book I have always felt is well pitched for Year 3 children! It's also one I've often enjoyed reading to whole classes in recent years. It's hard not to love the three villainous farmers. Firstly, there is Boggis who is an enormously fat chicken farmer who only eats boiled chickens smothered in fat. Then there is Bunce, a duck-and-geese farmer whose dinner gives him a beastly temper. Finally, there is Bean, a turkey-and-apple farmer who only drinks gallons of strong cider. It really is a battle of brains v brawn as Mr Fox creeps down into the valley and helps himself to food for dinner from their farms and they simply, no matter how hard they try, can't catch him! In spite of the plan the farmers hatch to bring Mr Fox's life to an end, Mr Fox comes up with a fantastic plan of his own and proves he really is 'Fantastic Mr Fox!' You can't help but love Mr Fox because he is brave, kind and fearless. He is a loving fox who cares about everyone more than himself and would never ever let anyone suffer. I encourage you to visit your local library and get a copy of the book and find out who wins this great battle – the three awful farmers or Mr Fox! It's a wonderful read which won't leave you disappointed. Enjoy my recommendation and happy reading over the Christmas period!



**Oak Class Y3 – Mrs Harrison: Boy in a Tutu by Kate Scott**



**A great story to be enjoyed by children in Key Stage 2 with an interest in spy/detective work.**

**An unusual story, about a boy (Josie), his friend (Sam) and his parents who are re-homed and given a new identity in order to keep their whereabouts hidden. Josie teams up with Sam, who is working as an undercover spy as well, in order to see if they can discover who is trying to steal the football memorabilia from the local leisure centre! This is no easy task and it is safe to say that it is a rollercoaster of a ride for both children.**

**Will they eventually discover who the thief is?**

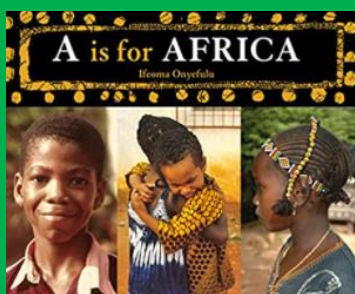
**Miss Egan – suitable for Y3/4 up. The Ship of Shadows by Maria Kuzniar**

Aleja is desperate for excitement and longs to see the world, which up to now, is only within reach in the books about explorers, pirates and swashbucklers that she sneaks out of the library in the dead of night. When a legendary ship sails into port, Aleja's quest for adventure is suddenly much closer than expected. Sailing aboard this unique vessel brings our protagonist face-to-face with sea monsters, skeleton armies, pirate-hunters, booby traps and treasure maps.



The Ship of Shadows takes the reader on a magical voyage along with spirited, resourceful characters. I thoroughly enjoyed this book – great escapism and a fresh take on the pirate genre. If your family enjoys films such as Jason and the Argonauts, Pirates of the Caribbean and Raiders of the Lost Ark, then this story will please everyone at bedtime and like me, you will be eager to get your hands on the next installment!

**Poplar Class Y2 Mrs Thompson: A is for Africa by Ifeoma Onyefulu**



Over the Spring term, Year 2 will be delving into Africa to learn about the variety of countries and cultures that make up this amazing continent. In such a large continent, there's a lot for us to learn about. This book uses photographs to show the children different aspects of life in Africa whilst working through the alphabet from A to Z. The children already know that there are differences between England and Africa but this book will

hopefully highlight some of the similarities as well. My favourite similarity has to be that x is for xylophone, like always!

## **Willow Class Y2 – Mr Buckley: The Green Ship by Quentin Blake**

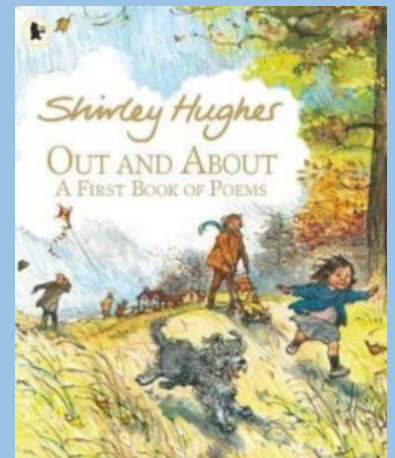
From the fantastic  
Blake, Green Ship is a  
children who love to use  
decide to go exploring in  
ship made of bushes.  
friendly characters that  
of fun playing and  
This is a book full of



illustrator and writer Quentin  
wonderful story about two  
their imaginations. When they  
an overgrown garden, they find a  
Together with some other  
they meet, the children have lots  
creating in the great outdoors.  
warmth and fun.

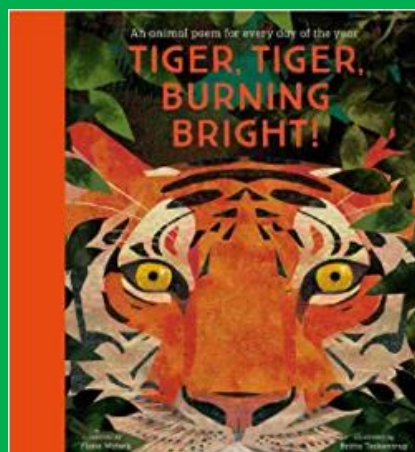
## **Elm Class Y1 – Mrs Wadsworth: Out and About by Shirley Hughes**

In Elm Class at the moment, we are loving our Author Study of Shirley Hughes and we have been looking at many fiction stories written and illustrated by her. However, when one of the children discovered this book at 'The Roving Bookshop', we just had to purchase it to add to our collection. We never knew she was also a poet. The book is split into four sections, to represent each season. In Elm class we are currently enjoying the Autumn poems and cannot wait to keep returning as each season passes.



## **Beech Class Y1– Mrs Hunt: Tiger Burning Bright! – An Animal Poem for Every Day of the Year: National Trust Poetry collections by Fiona Waters**

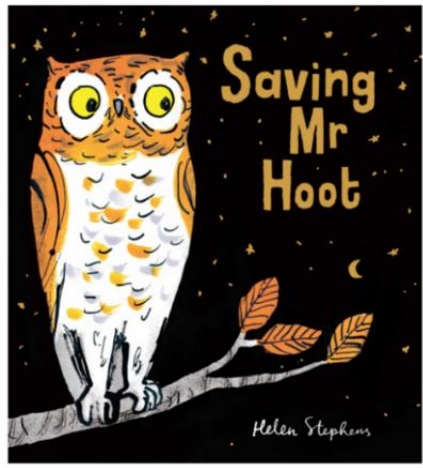
I came across this book  
animals and I would  
an interest in animals from  
collection of poems from a  
different one for each day  
beautiful and make this  
dipping into the book to  
for a special date. However  
definitely be a poem that  
the one about the



when looking for one about  
recommend this to anyone that has  
around the world. It is an amazing  
wide range of poets and there is a  
of the year! The illustrations are  
book a real treasure. I enjoy  
find the animal poem of the day or  
you read this book, there will  
will amuse or interest you. Mine is  
guppies...



**Cherry Class – Reception – Mrs Coughtrey: Saving Mr Hoot by Helen Stephens**



Are you fascinated by owls? Have you ever seen a real one? Do you know where they live, and do you understand their habits?

This book may inspire you to learn about owls or consider how you could make a difference in your town.

Ben is the only person in his family who notices Mr Hoot. He speaks to him every night and Mr Hoot speaks back. They are good friends. The trouble is, nobody else believes that Mr Hoot is real because they have never seen him.

One Springtime, something terrible happened! Ben spotted a sign that meant Mr Hoot's beloved beech tree was going to be chopped down.

Ben was worried about what would happen to Mr Hoot and other animals living in the tree. Where would they go if their home was destroyed?

Green Lane children understand the importance of tree conservation so will really relate to this book.

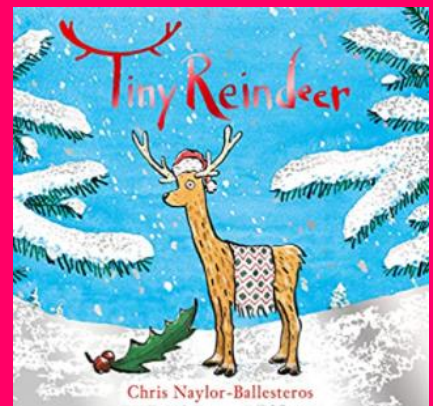
Can one small boy convince his community to stop tree felling? You'll have to read the book to find out!

The illustrations are truly beautiful, and the simple text makes it the perfect read for EYFS children.

**Pear Class - Reception – Miss Egan: Tiny Reindeer by Chris Naylor-Ballesteros**

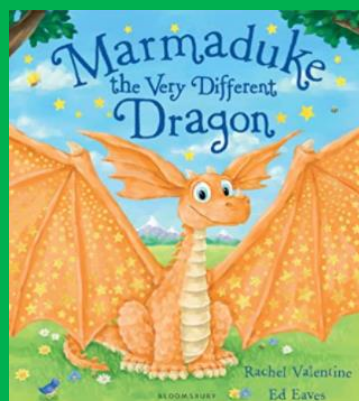
This is a heart-warming story with gorgeous illustrations that would make a perfect Christmas present! Ideal as a bedtime story for children in EYFS up to Year 2, it just goes to show

that no matter how small and insignificant we may feel, we can always make a difference!



**Apple Class Nursery Miss Cameron: Marmaduke the Very Different Dragon by Rachel Valentine and Ed Eaves**

A dragon with a difference. dragons and as a result feels very shy people, especially princesses. Until difference! This is a great book people and not being afraid to and stand out from the rest. I loved Marmaduke's textured and patterned



Marmaduke isn't like the other and nervous when he meets new that is, he meets a princess with a about finding your own kind of celebrate what makes you different the pictures in this book and feeling wings.